SUBJECTS.

assistance in the matter and even work on the Committee gratuitously.

Dewan's reply.—The Member has dealt with a difficult question well. His suggestions are noted.

63. *Establishment of a poor house for the crippled, the destitute, etc., in the State.*

Mr. Aiyappan Aiyappan (Member, Chengannur Taluk) said that there was at present no institution for the protection of the blind, the crippled and the destitute. Though there was an hospital for the incurables at Trivandrum, its usefulness was but little, owing to ignorance on the part of the people of its existence and the difficulty which the poor, the blind and the crippled in the Mofussil had to undergo in coming to Trivandrum. The class of people above described crowded the public thoroughfares during festivals in temples and caused a good deal of annoyance to the public by exposing their sores and deformities in view to excite pity and obtain alms. There was no law in respect of the incurables. Some provision similar to that made in the case of lepers should be made for these people being brought to the Incurable Hospital and lodged there by the Police or some responsible Revenue authority. Substantial relief had been given to such people in the past by the Government from the *Oottupuras* and *Kanjipuras*. But in the altered condition of things that was not possible. A small sum of money to be devoted to the relief of the crippled and the destitute should not be deemed to be a burden on the State finances. The Member then thanked the Government for the policy of retrenchment in the expenditure on the *Oottupuras* and said that if, in these circumstances, the Government would find their way to establish an asylum for the destitute, the crippled, blind and other incurables in the State, such an act of charity would greatly add to the glory of the administration, whose motto was "Charity, our Household Divinity".

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

THE MARUMAKKATHAYAM BILL.

Dewan.—Gentlemen, I now propose to take the opinions of the Samantha and Nair Members of the Assembly on the draft Marumakkathayam Bill. I am sure that you have all read the Bill and have been thinking about it a great deal. I would request each of you to give your opinion briefly and to the point. Those who approve generally of the Bill, but differ in respect of the details, may say exactly what the details are in respect of which they hold a different opinion.

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